

**Governor Olene Walker**  
**State of the State Address Highlights**  
**January 22, 2004**

- Gov. Olene Walker greeted Senate and House Leadership, legislators, Supreme Court Justices, the lieutenant governor and guests.
- She reflected on the years she served as a legislator and conveyed an understanding of the process and obligations legislators have.
- Walker, looking toward the future of the state, outlined a plan to get BACK TO BASICS to ensure a STRONG FOUNDATION for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- BUILDING BLOCKS include:
  - A conservative, realistic budget.
  - Strong initiatives that focus on the basic needs of our citizens.
  - An innovative, yet basic vision for tomorrow.

**CONSERVATIVE, REALISTIC BUDGET**

- Walker outlined THREE budget PRIORITIES:
  - Maintain the Triple A bond rating – this saves the state, including school districts, millions of dollars.
    - To do this, **“We must limit bonding, add to our reserves, and ensure we have sufficient resources to meet our basic obligations.”**
  - Retain state and education employees.
    - Fund a **modest 2 percent salary increase.**
  - Fund and maintain quality education – citizens, educators and business leaders should be part of the solution.
    - Increase educator salaries.
    - Fund student population growth – 17,000 additional students in past 10 years compared to 145,000 additional students in next 10 years.
    - Put \$30 million into Performance Plus to focus on literacy in kindergarten through third grade.

**STRONG INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON BASIC NEEDS**

- “Read with a Child”
  - **“Every Utahn should spend the most important 20 minutes of their day, reading with a child. Up through the third grade, students learn to read. After third grade they read to learn.”**
- Transition youth in foster care into adulthood.
- Increase online services, including the “Utah Cares” basic services Web site.
- Create a statewide, wireless communication network.
- Improve 25 watersheds.
- Develop a comprehensive tax reform plan.
  - **“A 21<sup>st</sup> century government needs a 21<sup>st</sup> century tax system. Utah needs tax reform!”**
- Pursue resolution of public lands issues.

## INNOVATIVE, BASIC VISION FOR TOMORROW

- Strengthen our economy: “The stability and strength of Utah families depends on the economic security provided by well-paying jobs.”
  - We must assist our own companies to grow and expand.
  - Challenge higher education research institutions to work together in developing ideas and in transferring research results to our Utah businesses.
    - “Utah businesses win, Utah job seekers win, Utah consumers win.”
  - One-stop, online business information.
  - Save Hill Air Force Base from another military base downsizing.
  - Enhance contributions of out-of-state businesses to Utah.
    - Aim is to make Utah the global outdoor recreational area.
  - Attract important growth
    - Siebel Systems, Cadence Design Systems, Malt-O-Meal and Orgill, Inc.
- Support our service men and women.
- Make thoughtful decisions regarding the citizens of Utah.

IT BEGINS WITH US.

IT BEGINS WITH THE BASICS.

IT BEGINS NOW.

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